



Alternatives to Washington's Blanket Primary

System	Description	Differences from Blanket Primary	States with similar nominating system
(1) Closed Primary-Independent Excluded	Voters are required to declare their political party affiliation, if any, at the time they register to vote. Only voters affiliated with a major political party are permitted to participate in the primary for partisan offices (independent or unaffiliated voters and voters affiliated with minor political parties are excluded by party rules). The voter receives a ballot that only contains the candidates of the major political party with which he or she is affiliated. For each partisan office, the candidate who receives the most votes at the primary appears on the general election ballot.	Voters must declare party affiliation when they register to vote. Only voters affiliated with a major political party participate in the primary for partisan offices. At the primary, each voter receives a ballot with only the candidates of the party with which he or she is affiliated. Minor party and independent candidates appear only on the general election ballot.	Alaska, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wyoming (15 states).

<p>(2) Closed Primary-Independents Included</p>	<p>Voters are required to declare their political party affiliation, if any, at the time they register to vote. At a primary for partisan offices, voters affiliated with a major political party automatically receive a ballot that only contains the candidates of the major political party with which he or she is affiliated. Independent voters are permitted by party rules to choose one major party ballot at the primary and select candidates only from that party. For each partisan office, the candidate who receives the most votes at the primary appears on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Voters must declare party affiliation when they register to vote. Voters affiliated with a major political party and independent voters participate in the primary for partisan offices. At the primary, each voter receives a ballot with only the candidates of the party with which he or she is affiliated or which he or she has publicly chosen to affiliate for that partisan primary. Minor party and independent candidates appear only on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, and West Virginia (13 states).</p>
<p>(3) Open Primary-Public Declaration of Party Affiliation</p>	<p>Voters are not required to declare their political party affiliation, if any, at the time they register to vote. At a primary for partisan offices, voters are permitted by party rules to choose one major party ballot at the primary and select candidates only from that party. The choice each voter makes is a public record and copies of the poll books with this information are furnished to the major political parties. For each partisan office, a candidate who receives the most votes among candidates of that major party appears on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Voters must publicly declare major political party affiliation in order to participate in the nominating primary for partisan offices. At the primary, each voter receives a ballot with only the candidates of the party with which he or she has chosen to affiliate for that partisan primary. Minor party and independent candidates appear only on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia (11 states).</p>

<p>(4) Open Primary-Private Declaration of Party Affiliation</p>	<p>Voters are not required to declare their political party affiliation, if any, at the time they register to vote. At a primary for partisan offices, voters are permitted by party rules to vote only for the candidates of one major party ballot at the primary. The choice each voter makes is a not public record. For each partisan office, a candidate who receives the most votes among candidates of that major party appears on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>At the primary, a voter receives a ballot for each major political party (with only the candidates of that party). The voter may only select among the candidates on one ballot. Voting for candidates of more than one major party invalidates all of the votes cast by that voter for partisan offices. Minor party and independent candidates appear only on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin (9 states).</p>
<p>(5) No Major Party Primary - Party Nomination of Candidates</p>	<p>Major political parties select their nominees for partisan office according to party rules (providing for nominating caucuses and conventions or similar mechanism). For each partisan office, the candidate nominated and certified by that major party appears on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>At the primary, each voter receives ballots only for each nonpartisan offices and issues. Minor party and independent candidates appear only on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>None. (Most states used this approach before the introduction of direct primaries. Some still use this method for selected offices.)</p>

<p>(6) Modified Blanket Primary- Top Two candidates for each party</p>	<p>Voters are not required to declare their political party affiliation, if any, at the time they register to vote. Major political parties nominate one or more candidates for each partisan office according to rules provided by the political party. At the primary for partisan offices, voters are permitted to vote for only one candidate for each partisan office. For each partisan office, the candidate who receives the most votes among candidates of a major political party at the primary appears on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Candidates for partisan offices would have to be nominated by a major political party in order to file for that office. Political parties could nominate more than one candidate for an office. (Each major political party would specify in its rules the procedures to be used by that party. These could include nominating certificates, caucuses and conventions, central committee endorsements, or some combination or variation of these methods.)</p>	<p>None. (This method is similar to states that use "challenge primaries" in conjunction with nominations by convention. It is also similar to the existing blanket primary in Washington, with the addition of the requirement that candidates must be nominated by major political parties in order to file and run for partisan offices.)</p>
<p>(7) Modified Blanket Primary- Top Two Candidates</p>	<p>Voters are not required to declare their political party affiliation, if any, at the time they register to vote. At a primary for partisan offices, voters are permitted to vote for only candidate for each partisan office and are not restricted to voting only for the candidates on one major political party. The choice each voter makes is a not public record. For each partisan office, the two candidates who receive the most votes among candidates for that office at the primary appear on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>The top two candidates (regardless of party affiliation) advance to the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Louisiana. (Justice Scalia referred to and discussed this alternative to the blanket primary system in the majority opinion in <u>California Democratic Party et al. v. Jones et al.</u> Louisiana uses this approach for U. S. Senate and U. S. Representative.)</p>

<p>(8) Nonpartisan Offices and Primary</p>	<p>All offices are nonpartisan. Candidates do not declare political party affiliation at the time they file for office and no indication of party affiliation appears on the ballot. Voters are permitted to vote for only one candidate for each office. The choice each voter makes is a not public record. For each office, the two candidates who receive the most votes among candidates for that office at the primary appear on the general election ballot.</p>	<p>The political party affiliation, if any, of the candidates does not appear on the ballot. For each office, the two candidates who receive the most votes for that office advance to the general election ballot.</p>	<p>Eliminating partisan offices would make elections for those positions in Washington similar to municipal and district elections in this state.</p>
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